

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 19

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

**BY THE SENATE RULES COMMITTEE BY REQUEST OF THE JOINT ARMED SERVICES
COMMITTEE**

Introduced: 3/27/08

Referred: State Affairs

A RESOLUTION

1 **Relating to defending the state from electromagnetic pulse attacks.**

2 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

3 **WHEREAS** the Constitution of the United States imposes on the national government
4 a duty to provide for the common defense, and the states and the national government work
5 together toward the security of each state; and

6 **WHEREAS** the Congressionally mandated Commission to Assess the Threat to the
7 United States from Electromagnetic Pulse Attack found, in its report delivered July 2004, that
8 an enemy using a low-yield nuclear weapon detonated at a high altitude above the United
9 States, delivered by even a relatively unsophisticated short-range or medium-range ballistic
10 missile, could make an electromagnetic pulse attack against the United States, and that an
11 electromagnetic pulse attack has the potential to place our society at risk and to defeat our
12 military forces; and

13 **WHEREAS** the Alaska State Legislature views with growing concern the
14 development of nuclear weapons technology worldwide and the proliferation of ballistic
15 missile delivery systems that are controlled by unstable and potentially hostile foreign
16 regimes; and

1 **WHEREAS** the threat from nuclear-armed ballistic missile attack has been reduced
2 but not eliminated by the initial limited deployments of ground-based interceptors in Alaska
3 and California; and

4 **WHEREAS** the Cold War doctrine of mutually assured destruction no longer
5 represents a plausible security strategy because of the proliferation of ballistic missiles around
6 the world; and

7 **WHEREAS** the testing of ballistic missiles launched from ships by enemies of the
8 United States could indicate the intention of those enemies to use a platform off the coast of
9 Alaska to employ short-range or medium-range missiles for a nuclear-generated
10 electromagnetic pulse attack on American citizens; and

11 **WHEREAS**, in 1997, the Alaska State Legislature was the first of many state
12 legislatures to petition the federal government to develop and deploy a robust and layered
13 missile defense system that includes the most effective combination of land-based, sea-based,
14 air-based, and space-based architectures;

15 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges the United States to work
16 with the State of Alaska to ensure that the state is prepared to respond to and recover from an
17 electromagnetic pulse attack; and be it

18 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges the United States to
19 expand its ballistic missile defense system to defend against electromagnetic pulse attacks
20 delivered by ballistic missiles, including missiles launched at American cities from ships off
21 the coast of Alaska; and be it

22 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that it is the policy of the state to include in its
23 preparedness planning defense against electromagnetic pulse attacks, as those attacks intersect
24 with the full range of risks, threats, and hazards confronting the state; and be it

25 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that it is the policy of the state to educate Alaskans about
26 the threat of electromagnetic pulse attacks causing massive losses of electric power and
27 disruption to telecommunications and other vital services, including health, public safety,
28 food, and transportation services that depend on reliable electric power; and be it

29 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature encourages municipalities
30 and private industry in the state to examine critical vulnerabilities in their infrastructures and
31 to prepare for massive disruptions that could be caused by electromagnetic pulse attacks.

1 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable George W. Bush, President
2 of the United States; the Honorable Richard B. Cheney, Vice-President of the United States
3 and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Harry Reid, Majority Leader of the U.S.
4 Senate; the Honorable Mitch McConnell, Minority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable
5 Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Steny H. Hoyer,
6 Majority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable John Boehner, Minority
7 Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Robert M. Gates, United States
8 Secretary of Defense; the Honorable Samuel W. Bodman, United States Secretary of Energy;
9 the Honorable Michael O. Leavitt, United States Secretary of Health and Human Services; the
10 Honorable Michael Chertoff, United States Secretary of Homeland Security; the Honorable
11 Condoleezza Rice, United States Secretary of State; the Honorable Mary E. Peters, United
12 States Secretary of Transportation; the Honorable Henry M. Paulson, Jr., United States
13 Secretary of the Treasury; the Honorable Robert S. Mueller, Director of the Federal Bureau of
14 Investigation; the Honorable Mike Mullen, Chair of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; the Honorable
15 Mike McConnell, Director of National Intelligence; and the Honorable Ted Stevens and the
16 Honorable Lisa Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S.
17 Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.